



## REPORT/RECOMMENDATION

<b>To:</b> MAYOR AND COUNCIL	<b>Agenda Item</b> Item No: <u>IV.L.</u>
<b>From:</b> Wayne D. Houle, PE Director of Engineering	<input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/> <b>Action</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Discussion</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Information</b>
<b>Date:</b> June 5, 2012	
<b>Subject:</b> Traffic Safety Committee Report of May 2, 2012	

### ACTION REQUESTED:

Review and approve the revised Traffic Safety Committee Report of May 2, 2012

### INFORMATION/BACKGROUND:

The Edina Transportation Commission (ETC) reviewed the May 2, 2012, Traffic Safety Committee Report at their May 17, 2012, meeting and made the following comments:

Item A2: The ETC had a good discussion regarding the Temporary Speed Table Policy. It was agreed that staff will revise the Temporary Speed Table Policy per their comments and include the revised policy in the next Traffic Safety Committee Report.

Item B1: The ETC would like staff to review pedestrian safety due to parking along these roadways, due to two very successful restaurants located on the Minneapolis side of Xerxes Avenue. The denial of the all-way stop sign remains in the report.

Item D8: The ETC would like staff to review if a Conditional Use Permit should have been required for the change of ownership for Wooddale Church, located at West 56<sup>th</sup> Street and Wooddale Avenue, due to parking within the neighborhood. The answer for this question will be included in the next Traffic Safety Committee Report.

### ATTACHMENTS:

Revised Traffic Safety Staff Committee Report for May 2, 2012.

Draft Edina Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes of May 17, 2012.

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT  
(Revised May 17, 2012)

Wednesday, May 2, 2012

The Committee review of traffic safety matters occurred on May 2, 2012. The Committee is comprised of staff members including the City Engineer, Assistant City Planner, Police Traffic Supervisor, and Traffic Safety Coordinator.

From that review, the recommendations below are provided. On each of the items, persons involved have been contacted and the staff recommendation has been discussed with them. They were also informed that if they disagree with the recommendation or have additional facts to present, they can be included on the May 17, 2012, Edina Transportation Commission and then the June 5, 2012 City Council Agenda.

**SECTION A:**

Requests on which the Committee recommends approval of request:

1. Request for parking restrictions on 53<sup>rd</sup> Street West.

This request is from a resident who lives in the area. The resident feels that parking on both sides of the street is causing a traffic hazard. Requestor has stated that traffic cannot travel safely when there are parked cars on both sides. The request is for no parking to be placed on the north side of the road.

Four residents have called to request no parking on this section of 53<sup>rd</sup> Street West over a period of one month.

53<sup>rd</sup> Street West is a City street that is measured at 30 feet wide. There are no traffic counts for this section of roadway and there is one recorded traffic crash with property damage from 2001 to 2010 (2010). The policy on parking restrictions states that parking restrictions should be considered when the street is too narrow to allow safe passage of vehicles if parking is permitted. A street width of 30 feet would not allow two-way traffic with parked vehicles on both sides.

After review by staff, it was decided that parking should be restricted on the north side to allow better sight distance for vehicles coming from Grandview Lane to make a left turn onto 53<sup>rd</sup> Street West.

**Staff recommends the approval of parking restrictions on the north side of 53<sup>rd</sup> Street West from Vernon Avenue to the end of 53<sup>rd</sup> Street West.**

2. ~~Request for approval of the Temporary Speed Table Policy. See attached policy.~~

~~Staff developed this policy for placement of temporary speed tables to provide a temporary traffic calming method for local streets that are experiencing an increase in the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed of 5 to 10 MPH due to adjacent road construction.~~

~~In the June 21, 2011 City Council meeting, City Council approved the use of the temporary speed table on Sunnyside Road east of Townes Road. Traffic counts taken after placement reported an 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed of 27.6 MPH on Sunnyside Road east of Curve Road. A previous 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed of 35.0 MPH was recorded in the Northeast Edina Traffic Study (2006).~~

**Staff recommends approval of the Temporary Speed Table Policy. Staff will revise policy and include new policy in the June Traffic Safety Committee Report.**

3. Request for removal of the Speed Limit Policy.

The ETC has previously adopted this request because the City's Speed Limit Policy is outdated. See attached ETC advisory communication and supporting document. The speed limit for the City is governed by Minnesota State Statute 169.14 and our current policy does not match the statute; therefore, staff is also recommending elimination of the City's Speed Limit Policy.

Staff will be reviewing all of the City's traffic safety policies to see if there are others that do not match State Statute. Staff's intention is to place on the new City website information on speed limit with web link to State Statute.

**Staff recommends removal of the City Speed Limits Policy.**

## **SECTION B:**

Requests on which the Committee recommends denial of request:

1. Request for an all-way stop sign at the intersection of York Avenue and 56<sup>th</sup> Street West.

The requestor lives at the intersection of York Avenue and 56<sup>th</sup> Street West. The requestor has stated that vehicles are speeding through the intersection, which is causing a traffic hazard. The requestor has also stated that there have been a number of accidents at the intersection. The requestor has claimed the reason is due to the lack of an all-way stop sign at the intersection.

York Avenue and 56<sup>th</sup> Street West are classified as local city streets. There are no recent counts near the intersection. There are no recorded accidents at the intersection from 2001 to 2010. The closest accident was approximately 230 feet east of the intersection in 2005 (property damage). York Avenue has stop signs on both the north and south lanes.

The City of Edina policy regarding an all-way stop sign requires at least 300 vehicles entering the intersection per hour for any eight hours at the intersection. Stop signs are not installed in an attempt to control speed or volume of vehicles.

Traffic counts were conducted in the area. Vehicle volumes entering the intersection from each leg were added to determine the total volume for the hour. The highest volume recorded for one hour was 121 vehicles entering the intersection. This is below the required 300 vehicles per hour to meet the policy.

**Staff recommends the denial of request for an all-way stop sign at the intersection of 56<sup>th</sup> Street West and York Avenue due to lack of warrants.**

## **SECTION C:**

Requests that are deferred to a later date or referred to others.

1. Request for additional signs and lighting for the pedestrian signals at the intersection of 51<sup>st</sup> Street West and Halifax Avenue.

The requestor lives near the intersection of 51<sup>st</sup> Street West and Halifax Avenue. Requestor feels that the sightlines of the intersection and the height of the lights are not adequate. After discussion, requestor would like additional flashing lights lower on the posts of the pedestrian lights.

51<sup>st</sup> Street West is classified as a State-Aid road with an Average Daily Traffic (ADT) of 6,678 vehicles and an 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed of 28.2 MPH. There has only been one recorded crash involving a pedestrian (2007, with possible injury) and a total of six accidents from 2001 to 2010.

After review of relevant information, staff is recommending that the request be delayed until more information can be gathered. Information from the France Avenue pedestrian crossing upgrades may be used if appropriate, along with research regarding types of lights and placement of lights, will be looked at by staff.

2. Request for signal lights at the intersection of West Shore Drive and 66<sup>th</sup> Street West.

This request comes from a resident on Parnell Drive. The resident has stated that it is hard to make a left turn out of West Shore Drive in the morning. The requestor feels that placing a signal light at the intersection would allow traffic to get out on West Shore Drive.

West Shore Drive is classified as a city street with an Average Daily Traffic (ADT) of 785 vehicles and an 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed of 30.5 MPH south of 66<sup>th</sup> Street West; and an ADT of 413 vehicles and an 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed of 26.5 MPH north of 66<sup>th</sup> Street West.

66<sup>th</sup> Street West is classified as a State Aid route with an Average Daily Traffic (ADT) of 5,821 vehicles and an 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed of 35.6 MPH west of West Shore Drive; and an ADT of 6,198 vehicles and an 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed of 36.7 MPH east of West Shore Drive.

The placement of signal lights is determined by the Minnesota Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. The requirements is a minimum of 60 vehicles per hour in one direction on the minor street.

After discussion, it was concluded that more study in the area was needed because a signal light would have an impact greater than the intersection itself. More traffic counters will be placed in the surrounding area to monitor the traffic, along with other observations.

#### **SECTION D:**

Other traffic safety issues handled.

1. Request for speeds to be monitored in the area of Division Street and Oxford Avenue. Requestor lives on the street and has stated that vehicles are going, “too fast” in the area. Division Street is a City Street with an average daily Traffic (ADT) of 650 vehicles and an 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed of 32.0 MPH west of Oxford Avenue. Resident was informed of the results of the traffic count. Speed information was sent to the Edina Police Department.
2. Request for speed bumps on 55<sup>th</sup> Street West near France Avenue. Requestor lives on the street and feels that traffic has increased their volume and speed. Requestor was sent the Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan, and traffic counts were conducted in the area. 55<sup>th</sup> Street West is classified as a city street with an Average Daily Traffic (ADT) of 196 vehicles with an 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed of 24.2 MPH east of Drew Avenue. A count also taken east of France was shown to have an ADT of 238 vehicles with an 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed of 26.6 MPH. Resident was informed of the results of the counts and a speed information report was sent to the Edina Police Department.
3. Request for information about “Slow” signs used in Edina. Resident was informed that use of slow signs is for residents with disabilities only.
4. Call from a resident requesting the intersection of France Avenue and Crosstown to be looked at for resigning. Referred to Hennepin County.
5. Call from a resident concerning the timing of the signal at 65<sup>th</sup> and France. Referred to Hennepin County.
6. Call from resident requesting traffic counts in the area of Morningside Road and France Avenue. Requestor was informed that the most recent

count for Morningside Road had an Average Daily Traffic of 1,126 vehicles with an 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed of 30.2 MPH.

7. Call from a resident requesting information about the counts conducted on 55<sup>th</sup> Street West in item 2 above. Resident was given counts from area.
8. Call from a resident requesting a sign to inform drivers the location of the parking lot of the Wooddale church. Resident lives in the area and stated that vehicles are getting lost trying to find the parking lot for the church. Request was forwarded to Wooddale Church.
9. Call from two residents requesting parking restrictions on 53<sup>rd</sup> Street West. Residents were informed of the current traffic safety request.
10. Call from a resident who was concerned about the "No parking on road tubes" sign near her property. Resident was advised the purpose of not parking on the road tubes when a traffic count is being conducted.
11. Call from a resident regarding a previous request for striping in the area of Normandale road and 70<sup>th</sup> Street West. Resident was informed of the City Councils final decision to approve the striping.
12. Call from a resident requesting traffic counts at the intersection of Drew Avenue and Fuller Street. Resident was given the most recent counts in the area. The northern leg (Drew Avenue) of the intersection has an Average Daily Traffic of 268 vehicles with an 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed of 22.6 MPH. The eastern leg (Fuller Street) has an Average Daily Traffic of 194 vehicles with an 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed of 24.5 MPH. The southern leg has an ADT of 117 vehicles with an 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed of 23.3 MPH. The western leg has an ADT of 280 vehicles with and 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed of 21.4 MPH.

## TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT

Wednesday, May 2, 2012

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**MINUTES OF  
CITY OF EDINA, MINNESOTA  
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
COMMUNITY ROOM  
MAY 17, 2012  
6:00 P.M.**

**ROLLCALL** Answering roll call was Members Bass, Braden, Franzen, Iyer, Janovy, LaForce, Nelson, Schweiger, Thompson, and Whited.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA**

**Motion was made by member Thompson and seconded by member Braden approving the meeting agenda. All voted aye. Motion carried.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 19, 2012**

**The minutes was amended as follows: page 2, last paragraph, delete ‘...project ends here with...’ Motion was made by member LaForce and seconded by member Braden to approve the amended minutes. All voted aye. Motion carried.**

**COMMUNITY COMMENT** – None.

**REPORT/RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Traffic Safety Committee (TSC) Report of May 2, 2012**

Member LaForce asked how often the ETC receives the TSC and what to do they with the report. Director Houle explained that the TSC is a staff committee that meets monthly. He said staff takes requests from residents, collects data, does analysis and reports findings to the TSC. Residents are sometimes surveyed for their input. He said requests usually decrease during the winter months. He said staff is working on a new website that will include an interactive map showing requests from residents.

Page 6, Section D, Item 8: Member Janovy asked if this could be referred to the Planning Commission since it seems to come up often. Director Houle said they could make a recommendation to Council to forward it on to the Planning Commission and he could also talk with Planning Director Teague.

Page 3, Section B, Item 1: Member Whited recommended that staff review this request in 90 days to see if the intersection qualifies for a 4-way stop sign because she concurred that the intersection was not safe. Director Houle said a stop sign will not provide extra safety. Member Whited suggested a sidewalk or no parking on one side of 56<sup>th</sup>. Director Houle said staff could survey residents to get their feedback on a sidewalk or no parking on one side. A hedge was also noted as a possible safety hazard. Staff will look at the hedge, parking and speed data, and report back on these.

Page 1, Section A, Item 1: Director Houle was asked about the street width for parking on both sides. He said the width is 27-ft without marked lanes and 36-ft for a marked 2-lane road.

Director Houle was asked what Section D was and he explained that it was a list of other calls that staff received and residents were satisfied and therefore the issues were not advanced to the TSC.

Speed Table Policy: Director Houle said during the W. 44<sup>th</sup> Street reconstruction, traffic was unintentionally pushed to Sunnyside Road (despite the marked detour route) and with 85% speeds up to 36 mph prior to construction, Council approved a speed table for temporary use during construction. Director Houle said approval of this policy would allow

staff to purchase more speed tables to be used in conjunction with street reconstruction projects, except on Municipal State Aid streets because traffic calming is not allowed on these streets.

After discussion the following changes were recommended:

- Process: the city engineer to decide when and where to place speed tables;
- Item 4: remove 'speed of 5 to 10 mph' and reword to say 'over speed limit;' change 'adjacent' to 'nearby' or 'close.'
- Item 6: delete and incorporate into #2. At the end of what was Item 6 add 'the priority for installation should be on a first requested basis.'

**Motion was made by member Janovy to recommend the following actions regarding items in the TSC report:**

- **Section A.2.: Policy 4: remove '5 to 10 mph' and add 'over speed limit;' eliminate Policy 6 and incorporate into Policy 2 and add 'the priority for installation should be on a first requested basis;' city engineer to decide when and where to place speed tables; and bring back to ETC for review.**
- **Section B.1.: Explore option of no parking on one side of street; see if hedge is a safety hazard;**
- **Section D.8. Refer to Planning Commission to look at parking requirements.**

**The motion was seconded by member LaForce. All voted aye. Motion carried.**

#### **Proposed Enhanced Crosswalk for Tracy Avenue Project**

Director Houle said staff is opening bids next Tuesday for this project. He said the Intersection at Tracy and Benton is staying as is and the ETC recommended an enhanced crosswalk. He said the plan is to install a 10 ft. (12 ft total width from edge to edge) stamped crosswalk that is pounded into the pavement. He explained that the design will be more visible because the design and color makes it pops out at you. He said the initial cost is more expensive than traditional crosswalks; however, there is no annual maintenance like painted crosswalk that has to be painted twice annually. He said the crosswalk on 50<sup>th</sup> next to City Hall is very similar and after seven years and it is just now showing wear. Other areas where similar design is used are 70<sup>th</sup> & Metro, and 44<sup>th</sup> & Wooddale.

Director Houle was asked if the same crosswalk could be installed at Creek Valley and he said yes. Member Bass suggested creating a policy to make this standard treatment near schools if it works well. Director Houle agreed and said the intersections near schools would have the major crosswalk and a tiered system as you move away from the schools. Chair Nelson asked about a crosswalk on Vernon toward Highland School and Director Houle said Hennepin County does favor crosswalks where traffic signals are installed but he could explore this further with the County. Member Franzen asked staff to report back on the overall cost after bids are open.

After discussion, the ETC recommended installation of the crosswalk.

#### **Updates**

**Student Member** - No update.

**Bike Edina Task Force – Minutes of April 12, 2012** – No update.

#### **Grandview Small Area Study**

Director Houle said he asked Director Teague if there is anything that the ETC could be doing in the meantime and he is going to check with the committee. Director Houle said he has some ideas for federal funding.

#### **Living Streets Working Group Update**

Chair Thompson said he spoke with BARR, the consultant who is developing the Living Streets Policy and they are working on the deliverables. He said they have driven the streets to get a sense of the system to develop four street templates and he would like to schedule a working group meeting before this is completed. He said BARR would like to

make a formal presentation at the June meeting. Member Bass offered the do.Town staff to meet with the working group to help with public engagement. Member Thompson said Robin from Bloomington Health will be invited to the next working group meeting. Director Houle will schedule the next working group meeting.

#### **Transportation Options Working Group**

Co-chair Whited said they had a presentation from ITNAmerica that she will forward to everyone. She said she will be giving a presentation on Prism at the next meeting, the company she works for.

**Member Thompson motioned to add new member Greg Colborn from Normandale Lutheran Church, to the working group and the motion was seconded by member Iyer. All voted aye. Motion carried.**

#### **CORRESPONDENCE AND PETITIONS – None**

#### **CHAIR AND COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS**

Member Janovy expressed dissatisfaction with staff's report to Council because it did include comments from the ETC regarding the TLC Bike Blvd and the urban planner for the France Avenue Pedestrian Crossings. She said while the draft minutes were included, use of an advisory might be necessary to express the ETC desires. After discussion, the consensus was that use of advisories would be determined on a case by case basis.

Member Whited followed up with Director Houle about expansion of bike lane on W. 58<sup>th</sup> St. Director Houle will have information for the next meeting.

Chair Nelson expressed concerns about the increased amount of trains on the track. Director Houle said Canadian Pacific (CP) switched operation time due to a crew change which has resulted in more trains in the evenings. He said it is temporary but CP did not provide an end date. Chair Nelson said they are improving the track and wondered if this was to enable them to travel at higher speeds and if so, would they be required to install crossing arms. Director Houle said he will look into this and report back.

Member Iyer said he has received comments from residents about the bike path over TH-62 and they've expressed concerns that it is not a workable solution and should be a real bridge. Director Houle said the plan is for a real bridge that will accommodate ADA when funding becomes available.

#### **STAFF COMMENTS**

##### **TLC Bike Boulevard Update**

To be completed.

##### **Gallagher Drive & Three Rivers Trail**

Director Houle said the plan was approved, including conduits and bus pads.

##### **France Avenue Pedestrian Crossings**

Director Houle said stakeholders meeting are scheduled for May 31, 7 p.m. (first meeting to explain the project and solicit feedback); June 26, (6-7 p.m. ETC meeting, and 7-9 p.m. for stakeholders meeting); July 9 (with the ETC to recommend approval to Council); and the public hearing on July 17.

Motion was made by member Janovy approving the 3 special meetings and the motion was seconded by member Bass. All voted aye. Motion carried.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.